

A photograph of a female teacher with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt, sitting on the floor and reading a book to two young students. The students, a boy and a girl, are also sitting on the floor and looking at the book. They are in a library or classroom setting with bookshelves filled with books in the background. The image is slightly faded to allow the text overlay to be prominent.

# **Texas K-12 School System COVID Rapid Testing Project Superintendent Kick-Off**

**October 28, 2020**

# TEA's Focus on Health and Safety



Keep school safe in the time  
of COVID by making  
operational adjustments

## Policy and Guidance

- Public Health Guidance
- Remote Instruction Fully Funded for Families that Choose Remote
- On Campus Instruction Flexibility Provided When There is a Health Need to Reduce Density of People On Campus
- Joint TEA/DSHS Case Tracking Requirements

## Operational Support, Resources, and Tools

- Public Health Operational Guidebooks & Planning Exercises
- PPE
- Public Health Campaign
- Emergency Child Care Finder
- Meal Finder

# COVID Rapid Testing Project Overview

## Goal of this effort

In partnership with DSHS and TDEM, keep TX schools safe and open for on campus instruction by strategically deploying rapid COVID testing resources

## Testing approach

School systems are provided flexibility to use Abbott Laboratories BinaxNOW tests provided by the state and federal government as their local context requires

Participating in the testing project is optional for Texas schools

# Testing can support school systems' efforts to reduce COVID cases on campus

Provide Notice

Prevent

Respond

Mitigate

**By conducting tests on campus, school systems can:**

- Use tests as an additional screening tool in some cases to prevent the virus from coming on campus
- Provide another source of testing to which the school can quickly respond by removing the individual before they can spread COVID on campus

# About the Abbot Labs BinaxNOW Test



## How long does it take to get test results?

15 Minutes



## How is the test administered?

Tests are administered with a nasal swab (to the shallow front of the nostrils only). Adults will be able to self-administer the test with the oversight of a test administrator.



## How are the tests packaged?

Tests are the size of a credit card and contain a nasal swab and reagent testing solution (one bottle per testing kit). They are packaged 40 to a shoebox-sized kit.



# Accuracy of the BinaxNOW Test

- Abbott Labs evaluated its test in 102 patients who had shown COVID-19 symptoms for fewer than 7 days and compared the results with a PCR test. This analysis showed that BinaxNOW has a:
  - sensitivity (true positive rate) of 97.1%
  - specificity (true negative rate) of 98.5%
- BinaxNOW tests are significantly more accurate than the previous generation of rapid antigen tests.

# Test kit allocation and distribution methodology

Trauma Service Area COVID-19 Hospitalization Rate	Allocation Distribution Methodology
<7%	On-Campus Staff Count + 5% of Student Enrollment
7-15%	On-Campus Staff Count x 2 + 5% of Student Enrollment
>15%	On-Campus Staff Count x 4 + 5% of Student Enrollment

- Tests will be resupplied monthly once supplies have reached 25% of inventory provided
- [Allocation](#) will be recalculated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month based on regional health data

# Participating school systems will also receive PPE

- Test kits
- Foldable N95 Masks
- Face Shields
- Surgical Masks
  - *Enough for test administrators and individuals taking the test*
- Gloves
- Gowns

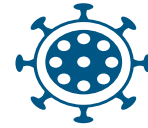


# Consider the recommended testing approaches



## Screening

Recurring testing of asymptomatic individuals. Suggest limiting to staff only.



## Targeted Response

Testing of individuals who are symptomatic

**While school systems are encouraged to implement the recommended testing strategies, they have flexibility to use the tests to meet the needs of their local contexts. In developing the plan, we encourage you to talk your local health authority.**

# Summary of K-12 COVID Rapid Testing Process

## Submit Opt-In Application

- School systems opt-in to testing program if eligibility requirements are met
- Test coordinators are identified



## Distribution & Inventory

- TDEM distributes test kits and PPE directly to school systems
- District Testing Coordinator manages inventory in collaboration with TDEM, and oversees distribution within school system



## Test Administration

- District identifies Test Administrators and completes mandatory training requirements
- District prepares school community for testing and administers tests



## Reporting

- Individual results are reported through STRAC application
- District follows weekly case & test volume reporting to DSHS

# Before submitting opt-in applications, school systems must:

- Meet and commit to TEA's eligibility requirements
- Consider the recommended testing approaches
- Review school system's test kit allocation
- Understand the critical roles and responsibilities of the test coordinator and test administer
- Implement the reporting and notification requirements
- Review the resources and support materials available

# Meet and commit to TEA's eligibility requirements

## School System Eligibility Requirements

- Allows any student that wants to attend on-campus to do so (within the next 2 weeks)\*\*
- Reviewed the requirements of the testing program participation, including requirements to administer tests, track inventory and report results
- Commits to:
  - testing only district employees and/or students
  - making testing optional
  - Obtaining formal consent from student's legal guardian (for those under 18) or individual being tested (18+)
  - not charging students/staff for testing

# Understand the critical roles and responsibilities of the test coordinator and test administer

## Test Coordinator

- Inventory liaison with TDEM
- Oversees inventory processes within the school system
- Supports school leaders with test program implementation

## Test Administrator

- Administers test to students/staff (if not self-administered)
- Implements safety protocols
- Reports test results

# Implement Reporting and Notification Requirements

## *School systems have two reporting responsibilities*

1. Report cases via the pre-existing DSHS COVID-19 Case Reporting Form, which includes test counts and testing results.
2. Each school must meet specific testing reporting requirements using a web-based portal and inventory management requirements associated with receiving these tests. This includes maintaining a weekly inventory tracker.

## *Campuses have two notification responsibilities*

1. Campuses should be prepared to notify individuals, or, in the case of a student under 18, the student's parents, in the event of a positive test, though they will receive a formal notification within 24 hours via email and/or text.
2. In addition, school systems must provide notification to their campus communities of positive cases on campus, consistent with [TEA Public Health Guidance](#) notification requirements.

# Review the resources and support materials available

## From TEA

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/covid-19-support-public-health-orders>

- COVID Testing Project Playbook
- Permission slip example
- Communications templates
- FAQ

## From TDEM

<https://tdem.texas.gov/k-12testing/>

- Test Administrator and Test Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities
- Best Practices Guide
- Testing Quick Guide and Support Guide
- QR Process
- FAQ

## What to expect after you submit your opt-in application

- Click here for opt-in application:
  - [LEAs](#) or [Private Schools](#)
- An auto-generated email with key contact information to ask questions and receive additional support
- If you meet TEA's on-campus eligibility requirement, TDEM will contact your test coordinator within 48 hours of completing the required training to coordinate delivery of test kits and PPE
- If you cannot meet TEA's on-campus eligibility requirement, TEA will contact you to discuss options





# For More Information

## Agency:

## Type of Questions:

## Contact:



- Best practices playbook for schools
- Communication templates
- DSHS Weekly COVID Case Reporting including reporting test counts and results

[COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov](mailto:COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov)



- For logistics and supply issues
- For PPE allotment and use

[k-12logs@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:k-12logs@tdem.texas.gov)

<https://tdem.texas.gov/k-12testing/>



- For Test Registration and the testing application Txrapidtest, test coordinators can contact:

Phone support: (512) 399-8050  
Email support: [support@txrapidtest.org](mailto:support@txrapidtest.org)  
FAQ: <https://helpdesk.txrapidtest.org>



- For issues with individual test kits

Phone support: 1-800-257-9525



